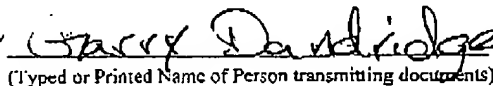


PATENT
Docket No. 297912003900

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FACSIMILE"

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(Signature of Person transmitting documents)
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Election
S. Byer
12/9/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

PLETZER et al.

Serial No.: 09/826,267

Filing Date: April 4, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND TECHNIQUE FOR
UNIFORM LOADING OF
ENDOLUMINAL PROSTHESIS

Examiner: D. Willse

Group Art Unit: 3738

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 6, 2002 for which a response is due on December 6, 2002.

Applicants hereby elect Group II (claims 17-22), without traverse. Applicant expressly reserves his/her right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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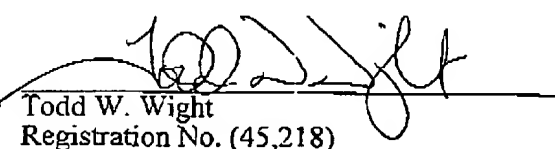
Applicant requests examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 297912003900. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 4, 2002

By:


Todd W. Wight
Registration No. (45,218)

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